

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1166

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 35

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: UUUC ON OFFENSIVE

REF: BELFAST 28, 24, 20

1. REPORTS FROM FIRST UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) RALLY AT PORTADOWN JAN. 20 MADE IT CLEAR UUUC INTEND ESTABLISH BEFORE AND DURING PHASE TWO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION THAT ACHIEVEMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR PROVINCE WAS NOW RESPONSIBILITY MINORITY PARTIES. THEY MUST PROVIDE ESSENTIAL "WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE" TO MEASURES PROPOSED IN REPORT FROM FIRST PHASE OF CONVENTION. SPEAKERS REITERATED HMG HAD "ACCEPTED 75 PERCENT" OF REPORT AND CITED THIS AS REFLECTION ON JUDGEMENT CONVENTION MEMBERS FROM MINORITY PARTIES (WHO HAD OPPOSED REPORT). OFFICIAL UNIONIST AND COALITION LEADER HARRY WEST REPEATED HIS DENIAL THAT RELIGION WAS ISSUE IN COMPOSITION FUTURE CABINET AND SAID UUUC WAS PREPARED PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION ON FIRST CONVENTION REPORT. WEST ALSO SUGGESTED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) POLITICIANS WERE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT "JOBS FOR THE BOYS". ERNEST BAIRD, LEADER OF UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST MOVEMENT (THAT REPLACED VANGUARD PARTY IN UUUC) ATTACKED VOLUNTARY COALITION AS BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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ENTRY FOR PERMANENT PRESENCE "REPUBLICANS" IN GOVERNMENT.

REV. MARTIN SMYTH IS REPORTED AS SAYING IT DIFFICULT KEEP RELIGION AND POLITICS SEPARATE WHEN THE BISHOP OF TEXAS ATTENDED A FUNCTION AT WHICH POUNDS STERLING 8000 WAS RAISED TO BE SENT TO NORTHERN IRELAND. REVEREND IAN PAISLEY TERMED SDLP ("SEMI-DETACHED LABOUR PARTY").

2. CONVENTION CHAIRMAN SIR ROBERT LOWRY COMPLETING SEPARATE TALKS WITH PARTIES IN CONVENTION. MINORITY PARTIES ALL BELIEVED TO FAVOUR PRIVATE INTER-PARTY TALKS BEFORE CONVENTION STARTS FEB. 3 BUT IT DOUBTFUL UUUC WILL MODIFY ITS REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE. SECSTATE REES DRAMATIZED "LAST CHANCE" ASPECT OF CONVENTION BY RELEASE JANUARY 19 NEWS THAT PAY FOR CONVENTION MEMBERS WOULD END MAY 7.

3. SDLP APPARENTLY CONTINUES BE IN SOME DISARRAY WITH LATEST INDICATION THE UNREST OF LOCAL COUNCILORS WHO HAVING DIFFICULTY RECONCILING THEIR BOYCOTT OF LOCAL DISCUSSIONS ON SECURITY MATTERS WHEN PARTY LEADER GERRY FITT ATTENDED SECURITY MEETING UNDER AUSPICES PRIME MINISTER.
SPICER

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